

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 2, wherein all of said plurality of second metal plates are said third-type second metal plates.

5. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 4, wherein said third-type second metal plates are arranged such that the angular positions of the cutout portions of said third-type second metal plates are successively shifted in the same circumferential direction and such that a phase shift of a predetermined angle is produced between two adjacent cutout portions.

6. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 2, wherein said plurality of second metal plates comprise said first-type and second-type second metal plates such that said first-type and second-type second metal plates are laminated alternately.

7. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 2, wherein said plurality of second metal plates comprise said second-type and third-type second metal plates such that said second-type and third-type second metal plates are laminated alternately.

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8. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 7, wherein said second-type and third-type second metal plates are arranged alternately such that the angular positions of the cutout portions of said third-type second metal plates are successively shifted in the same circumferential direction and such that a phase shift of a predetermined angle is produced between two adjacent cutout portions.

9. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 2, wherein said first metal plate and the bearing holder are integrally formed of the same metal.

10. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit, adapted to air-cool a heat sink of a heating element such as CPU and thermally connected to the heat sink, said axial fan motor comprising:

a casing formed of a plurality of metal plates and a single or a plurality of resin plates, said metal plates and said resin plates being laminated.

11. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 10, wherein said single or plurality of resin plates comprise at least a single resin plate, which is an outermost layer located at an air exhaust side of a fan;

said resin plate includes a peripheral portion having a circular inner edge; a central portion having a circular outer edge; and a plurality of arm portions for connecting the peripheral portion and the central portion; and

a bearing holder for supporting a rotary shaft of the fan is attached to the central portion.

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12. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 11, wherein said resin plate and the bearing holder are integrally formed of the same resin.

13. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 5, wherein the predetermined angle is 90 degrees.

14. (Withdrawn) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit according to Claim 2, wherein one of said arm portions has a window formed therein so as to allow looking therethrough at least at a terminal of a lead wire, and holder means for holding a lead wire.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A cooling unit, comprising:

an axial fan motor according to Claim 1; and

a shroud for mounting said axial fan motor above a heat sink, wherein said shroud includes a support base having a central portion cut out and on which a casing of said axial fan motor is mounted, and a plurality of legs extending downward from a plurality of positions on a peripheral edge of said support base;

said support base covers and is thermally connected to the heat sink, and end portions of said legs are engaged with a base of the heat sink, whereby said shroud is fixedly attached to the heat sink; and

said shroud and a plate serving as an outermost layer located at an air intake side of a fan of said axial fan motor and partially constituting the casing of said axial fan motor

are integrally formed of the same material.

18. (Currently Amended) An axial fan motor for a cooling unit, adapted to air-cool a heat sink of a heat generating device, said axial fan motor being disposed on one side of said heat sink opposite said heating element and adapted to direct cooling air into the interior of said heat sink, said axial fan motor comprising:

a motor including a rotor rotatable about a central axis and having a plurality of fan blades attached to an outer circumferential surface of the rotor;

a casing having an outer peripheral surface extending coaxial with said rotor between axially opposing inlet and outlet end faces, from an air inlet located in said inlet at one axial-end face, and to an air outlet located in said outlet at an axial-end face and axially opposite said air inlet, said casing surrounding said rotor and blades and defining an axial flow passage coaxial with said rotor for flow of cooling air entering through said air inlet, passing axially through said casing between said rotor and said casing, and exiting through said axial flow path extending from said inlet to said air outlet, and said inlet and outlet being centered on said central axis;

a bearing holder on which a stator of said motor, disposed inside said rotor, is fixed, said bearing holder supporting a rotary shaft of said motor via a bearing and connecting said stator to said casing, said rotor being fixed to said rotary shaft, wherein:

said casing comprising is formed of a plurality of identical metal plates, each of said identical metal plates having an outer edge continuous around and coincident with said outer peripheral surface and having opposing continuous planar surfaces oriented perpendicular to said central axis and having a central opening surrounding said axial flow path and centered on said central axis, said plurality of identical metal plates laminated

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together with said continuous planar surfaces in continuous face-to-face contact with each other and arranged side-by-side along the axial direction of said rotary shaft.

19. (Currently Amended) An axial fan motor according to claim 18, further comprising:
wherein

~~said plurality of metal plates include a single first metal plate, which is an outermost metal plate of said casing, forming said outlet end face and which is located at an air exhaust side and a plurality of second metal plates in face-to-face contact; said first metal plate including includes~~ a peripheral portion having a circular inner edge, a center portion having a circular outer edge, and a plurality of arm portions for connecting the peripheral portion and the central portion; and wherein said bearing holder for supporting the rotary shaft of said motor is attached to the central portion.

20. (Currently Amended) An axial fan motor according to claim 19 wherein:

each of said plurality of identical second metal plates includes only a peripheral portion having a circular inner edge.

21. (Currently Amended) An axial fan motor according to claim 20 wherein said circular inner edge of each of said plurality of identical second metal plates defines a complete, unbroken circle.

22. (Previously Presented) An axial fan motor according to claim 18 wherein said rotor is in the shape of a cup in which said stator is located.

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23. (Currently Amended) An axial fan motor according to claim 18 wherein the air inlet faces the heat sink and said axial fan motor takes cooling air from around the heat sink, through the heat sink, through the air inlet, and through the casing from the air inlet and exiting through the air outlet.

24. (New) An axial fan motor according to claim 18 wherein said central opening is centered on said central axis.

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